Revision in Price of Betamethasone and its Salts

1130. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) when was the price of Betamethasone and its salts revised and on what basis;

(b) whether it is a fact that BICP recommendation for reduction in price has not been implemented and that they have decided to uphold the Murthy Committee report;

(c) what happened to 50 per cent benefit recommended by the BICP;

(d) whether it is a fact that the company has been given a latent benefit of crores of rupees;

(e) whether any complaint against the bureaucrats getting lucrative benefits from this company including agency for his relatives has been received; and

(f) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The price of Betamethasone & its salts were revised on 9th October, 1991 due to impact of change of exchange rate of rupee against major foreign currencies as follows :—

(Rupees per gm.)

		Previous price	Revised price
1	Betamethasone Alcohol	144.19	149.42
2	Betamethasone Diphosphate	144.58	149.21
3	Betamethasone Valerate	136.58	143.31

(b) The BICP submitted its report on bulk drug Betamethasone and its salts in 1990. After examining the cost-cum technical study report of BICP in this Ministry, the same prices as were notified in 1989 were approved.

(c) The benefit of 50% reduction in cost, recommended by the BICP was not considered by this Ministry while revising the price of Betamethasone and its salts.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) No such complaint has been received.

(f) Does not arise.

Disposing off Holdings in India by Union Carbide

1131. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Carbide responsible for Bhopal Gas disaster are disposing off their holdings in India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government have taken to stop the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZER (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) and (b) Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) is holding 50.9% shares in Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) and as per the information furnished by a firm of Solicitors, 16,585,000 shares have been pledged to the Bhopal Hospital Trust to facilitate construction of the building and operation of an hospital for gas victims in Bhopal, which, under the directions of the Supreme Court in its Order dt. 31-10-1991, has to be finalised by UCC/UCIL.

(c) As per available information, the Court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bhopal has issued summons to the nine accused including Union Carbide Corporation, USA for appearance in the Court in the criminal case filed against them. The Company having failed to appear, the Court has,